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6 January 1958

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of USCIB and IAC

SUBJECT : Report of Discussions relative to Recommendation No. 2 of the President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities dated 24 October 1957

REFERENCE : Memorandum for Director of Central Intelligence from Executive Secretary, National Security Council dated 24 October 1957

1. The President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities would merge the Intelligence Advisory Committee and the United States Communications Intelligence Board by vesting their respective policy, coordinating and supervisory functions in a single board to be known as the United States Intelligence Board, under a charter which would provide for appropriate advice and assistance to the Director of Central Intelligence in the discharge of his coordinating function.

2. Discussions with the members indicate that they would oppose any over-all Board which would impair in any way the national intelligence production functions presently under the Intelligence Advisory Committee. The concept of merged boards would be that of a single 10-man Board rather than two 8-man Boards as at present. Members would be expected to participate actively to the extent that responsibilities and capabilities of their individual agencies might be involved, and to profit from a wider exposure to problems of the intelligence community as a whole when their agencies are not directly involved.

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3. Discussions have indicated that such a merger should facilitate better coordination in such matters as over-all collection efforts, intelligence security, intelligence communications--particularly in the field of early warning and critical intelligence, various administrative support activities, and the like. The principal advantages mentioned have included:

- a. probable improved stature of the intelligence community within the over-all governmental structure;
- b. possible improvement in the intelligence product and in the attention paid thereto by policy levels;
- c. more effective community support for extraordinary budgetary requirements of the intelligence community as a whole--for example for improved early-warning communications facilities;
- d. simplification of the intelligence community's structure and wider participation in certain activities by intelligence agencies not hitherto directly involved--for example the Atomic Energy Commission has indicated increasing interest in the USCIB product as a whole, with a specific particular interest in ELINT activities;
- e. "cross-fertilization" of ideas resulting from closer and more intimate relationships among the members of both communities; and
- f. expedited consideration of matters pertaining to over-all intelligence policies and coordination.

The principal disadvantages mentioned have included:

- a. possible impairment of security for special intelligence;

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- b. undesirability of combining dissimilar functions--
"oil and water";
- c. separation of internal assignments of responsibilities
for different functions, and
- d. different policy responsibilities.

4. All representatives were fully aware that this proposed merger would necessitate some changes in organizational procedures and methods, for example in those established by the existing NSCID 1 and NSCID 9. However, no representative objected to the proposal on this score. In summary, four representatives appeared to favor the merger proposal; four expressed views which varied from mildly favorable to neutral or mildly negative; and two were definitely opposed to the proposal.

5. Two lines of action seem open to the Director of Central Intelligence:

One, non-concurring in the recommendation of the President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities that the IAC and USCIB be merged, and recommending that the President disapprove the recommendation.

In view of the importance which has been attached to various reports made by the President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities, a recommendation for unfavorable consideration clearly should be supported by the most cogent reasons.

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Two, concurring in the recommendation of the President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities that the IAC and USCIB be merged, and recommending that the President approve such merger in principle.

In view of the fact that some revision of the provisions of several NSCIDs would also be required, the President should be advised that if the recommendation is approved in principle a task force, or study group, representative of both Committees would be established to develop detailed plans for implementation. Meanwhile, merged sessions could be held as desirable and such merged sessions would be of assistance in developing techniques for the merged United States Intelligence Board.

(Signed)

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